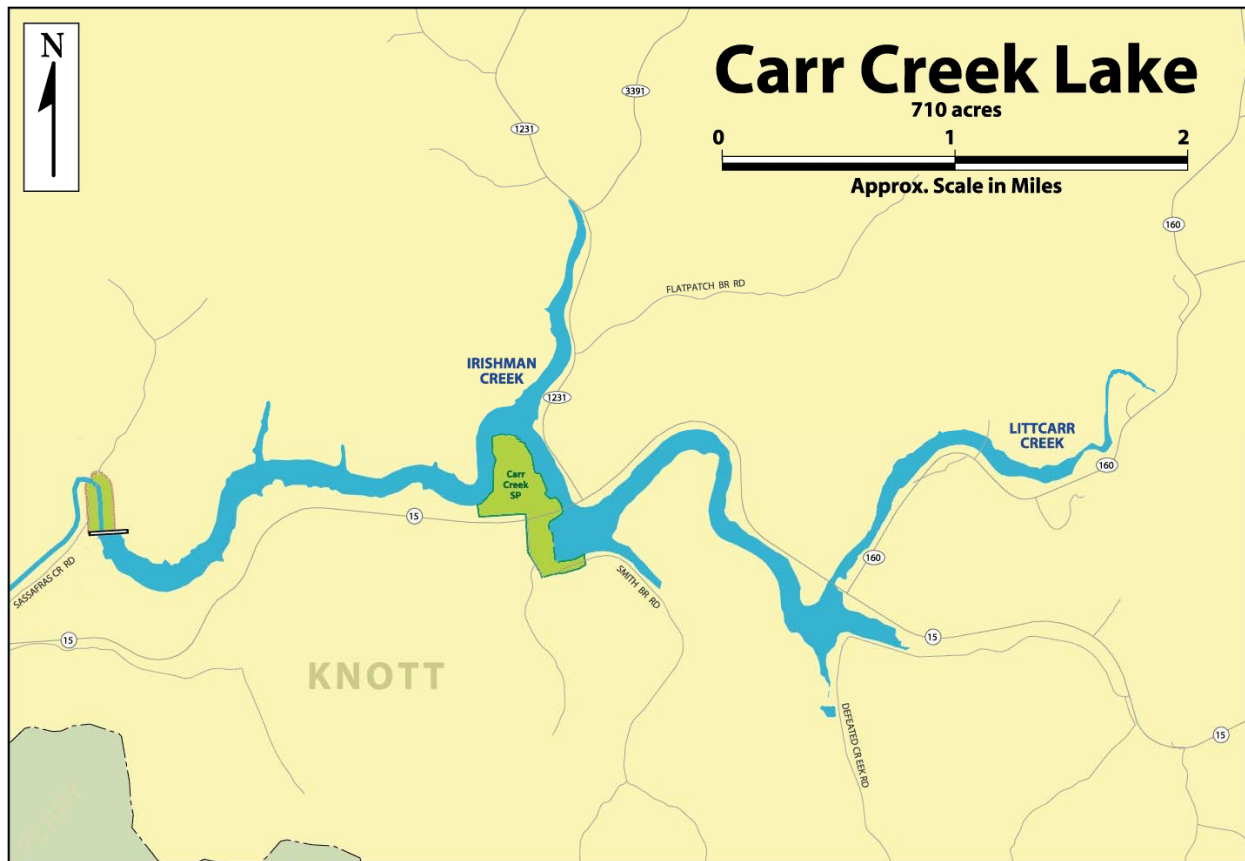


Carr Creek Lake Bass Assessment 2006

Carr Creek Lake, located in Knott County, is a 710 acre multipurpose reservoir on the Carr Fork. The majority of anglers using this lake target largemouth bass. This lake is unique to others of its size because it contains a large population of alewives which were first documented in 2000. These alewives have a mixed impact on the largemouth bass population as it is speculated that they compete excessively with small bass for resources, but yet they are an additional food source for the large bass. The following graphs show trends and rankings for each of the five population parameters used in the largemouth bass assessment. Please see "Understanding The Largemouth Bass Assessment" article for an explanation of how the assessment works. *Please note that the minimum size limit for largemouth bass on this lake is 15 inches.*



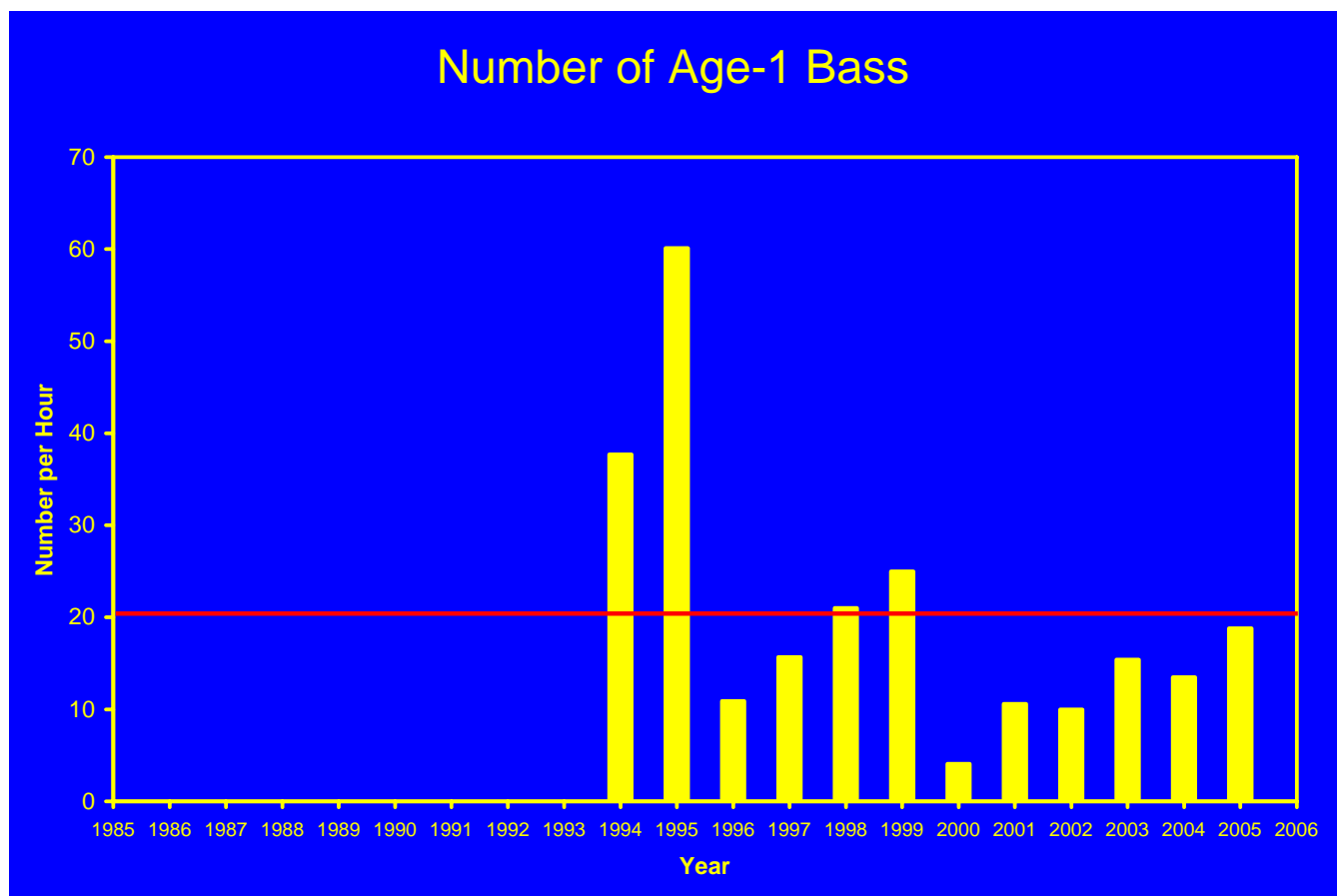
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Carr Creek Lake, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged just above 12-inches over the past 12 years. Compared to other reservoirs of similar size largemouth bass generally exhibit excellent growth at Carr Creek Lake. Growth rates can be variable and is generally related to factors such as population density, food resources, and weather patterns. The last time that KDFWR aged largemouth bass at the lake was in 2003. During 2003, 3 year old largemouth experienced excellent growth at just under 13 inches.



Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

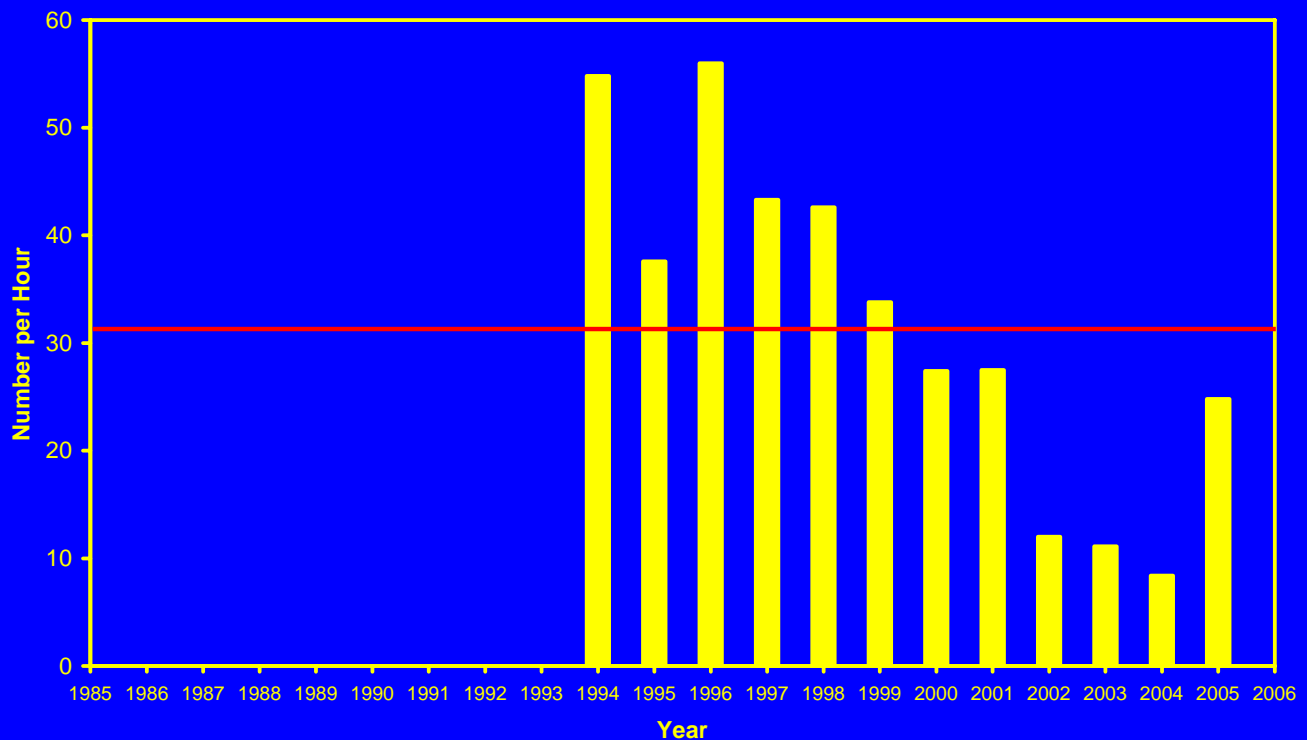
KDFWR looks at the spring catch rates of age-1 largemouth bass to assess the success of the spawn which occurred in the prior year. This is an important parameter because the number of bass produced represents how good the fishing will be once these fish grow large enough for anglers to catch. At Carr Creek Lake, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged just a little more than 20.0 bass per hour of electrofishing as indicated by the red line and overall is ranked as being fair compared to other lakes of similar size. Recruitment is often a problem at Carr Creek Lake. Although it is not shown in this graph, largemouth bass fingerlings have been stocked every year from 1999 to 2004 to increase numbers of bass in the lake. In 2005, the electrofishing catch of wild age-1 largemouth bass was just below the lake average at 18.8 fish per hour.



Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass has averaged a little more than 30.0 fish/hour over the years as indicated by the red line. As compared to other lakes, this is a fair catch rate for this size group of bass. Over the past few years, KDFWR biologists have recorded lower than average catch rates of this size group at Carr Creek Lake. Hopefully, this catch rate will continue to increase as it did in 2005 as more of the stocked bass grow into this size range. This number is important because these fish will soon grow to exceed the 15.0 inch legal size limit at the lake, and is a good predictor how bass fishing will be in years to come.

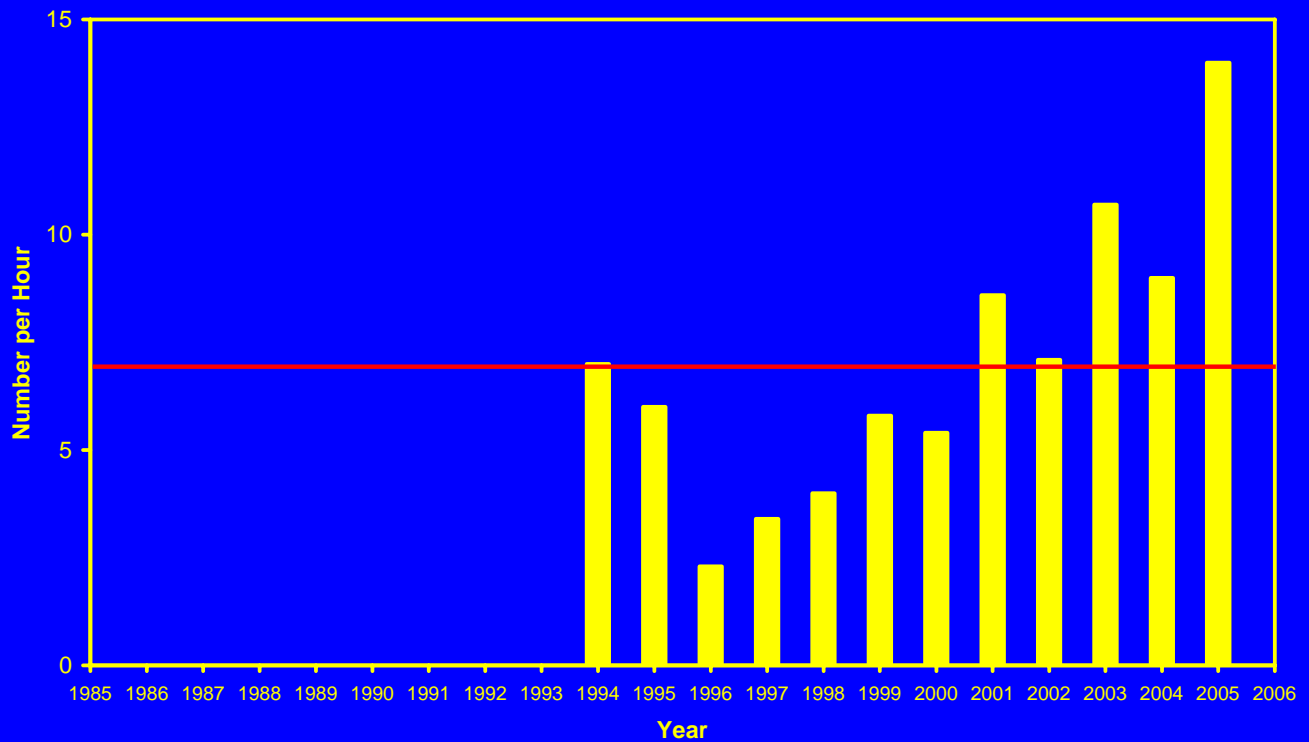
Number of 12-14.9 Inch Bass



Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15 inch and larger bass

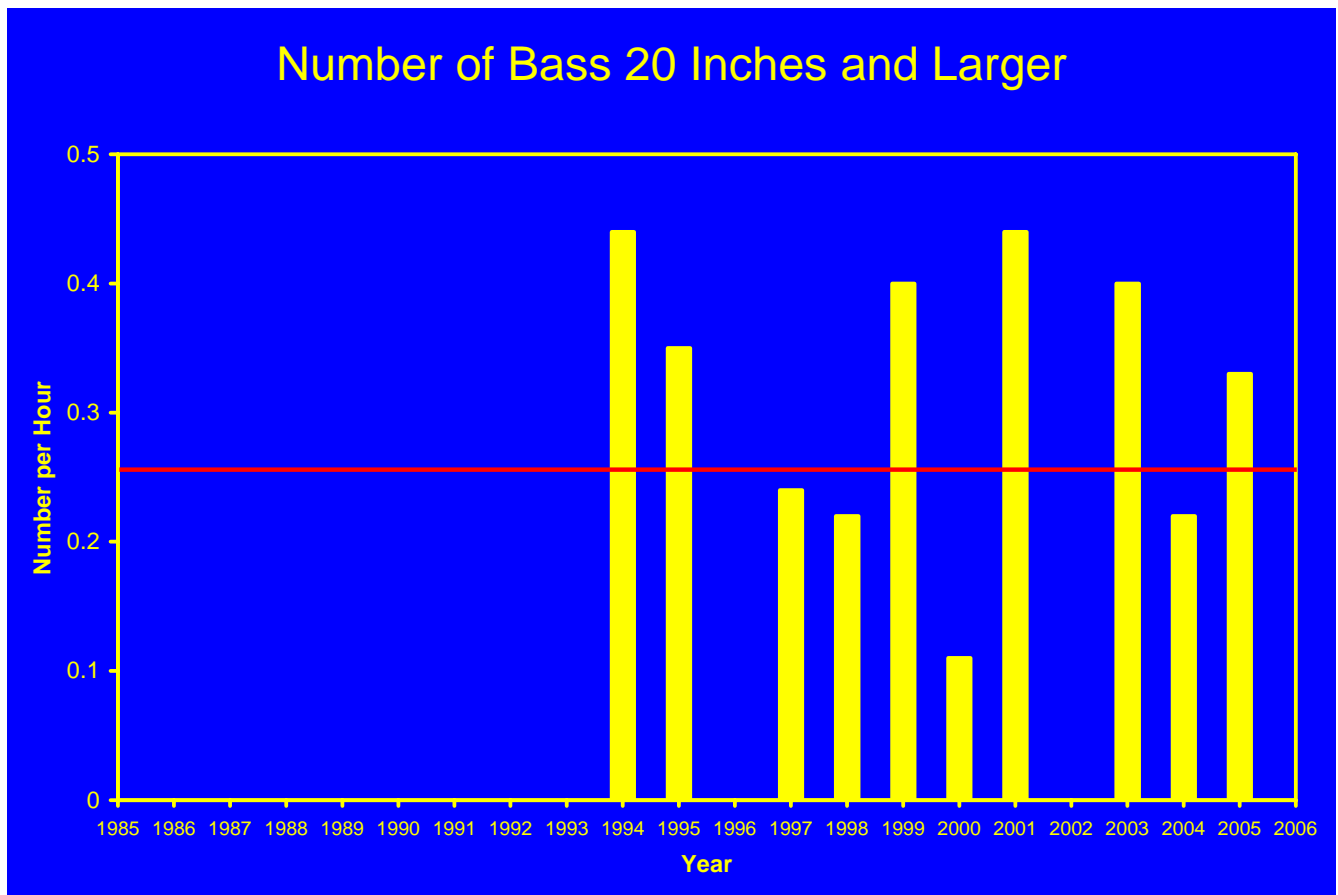
The catch rate of 15 inch and larger largemouth bass at Carr Creek Lake has averaged about 7 fish/hour of electrofishing. Again, as compared to other lakes, this is a fair catch rate for this size group. In 2005, biologists observed the highest electrofishing catch of largemouth bass (14.0 fish/hour) in this size group in the last decade. This along with an increasing catch rate of bass between 12 and 14.9 inches could result in good bass fishing over the next couple of years.

Number of Bass 15 Inches and Larger



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20-inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged about 0.25 fish/hour for Carr Creek Lake since 1994. In 2005, biologists observed 0.33 bass/hour over 20 inches, which even though is better than the average, it is still poor compared to other lakes in this size range. Thus, an angler fishing in Carr Creek Lake would have a better chance of catching several quality size bass than a genuine trophy. Even so, there are some big fish out there and that occasional trophy largemouth cannot be completely ruled out.



Overall – Total Assessment Score (All five parameters added together)

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Carr Creek Lake has averaged a fair rating (10.25) over the past 12 years. The largemouth bass population at Carr Creek Lake has been surprisingly stable. Besides a couple of years in the mid-1990's, it has ranked around the fair rating for the duration. Overall, the largemouth bass assessment score has been on a general increasing trend at the lake since 2001. In 2005, the overall assessment rating for the largemouth bass population at Carr Creek Lake was just above the average with a rating of 11. With the amount of supplemental bass stocking over the past several years, it would be safe to predict that the Carr Creek Lake bass assessment might rise back into a "good" rating in the near future.

